

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL TORONTO  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01441

DEPARTMENT PASS LABOR, ILAB

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, CA  
SUBJECT- CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS - PRE-CONVENTION  
CONFLICT

1. SUMMARY. RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH TWO OFFICIALS OF  
THE CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS (CLC) INDICATE THAT SOME  
INTERNAL PRE-CONVENTION CONFLICTS ARE BEGINNING TO SUR-  
FACE -- OVER THE FUTURE OF QUEBEC AND OVER CONTROL OF  
THE CLC'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVERAL UNION LEADERS WANT THE CLC TO GO ON RECORD  
AT ITS APRIL 3-7 BI-ANNUAL CONVENTION IN QUEBEC CITY  
AS SUPPORTING POLICY PAPER TO SUPPORT A UNIFIED CANADA,  
ALLOWING ACTIONS TO CONVINCE THE QUEBECOIS TO REMAIN  
PART OF CANADA WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR RIGHT TO DECIDE  
THEIR OWN FUTURE IN A PROVINCIAL REFERENDUM. OTHERS  
DO NOT THINK THE CLC SHOULD SUPPORT ANYTHING BUT A  
UNIFIED CANADA WITH ALLOWANCES FOR SPECIAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
CONSIDERATION FOR SOME PROVINCES, NAMELY QUEBEC. SOME  
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UNION CONVENTIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE ALREADY ENDORSED A  
SELF-DETERMINATION POLICY FOR QUEBEC AND WOULD FIND IT  
DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO APPROVE A DIFFERENT  
POLICY.

3. TWO PROMINENT CLC QUEBEC LABOR LEADERS, LOUIS LABERGE  
AND LOUIS HENRI LORRAIN, BOTH MASTERS OF THE ART OF

TAKING BOTH SIDES OF A CONTROVERSEY, CAN BE EXPECTED, IF NECESSARY, TO INFLUENCE THE FINAL DRAFTING OF AN INNOCUOUS CLC POLICY PAPER ON QUEBEC. THE PRESS REPORTS LORRAIN AS HAVING NO OPINION AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE HE IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CLC COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DRAFT THE PAPER. SPOKESMEN FOR LABERGE ARE REPORTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT LABERGE DOES NOT THINK A CLC POLICY PAPER CAN INCLUDE A STATEMENT ON SELF-DETERMINATION ALONG WITH A CALL FOR UNITY. LABERGE, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, BELIEVES ANY CLC POLICY STATEMENT ON QUEBEC SHOULD FIRST BE THE BUSINESS OF A QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR CONVENTION BEFORE BEING PRESENTED TO THE PARENT CLC CONVENTION. THE QUEBEC FEDERATION NEXT MEETS IN NOVEMBER, 1979.

4. COMMENT. OBVIOUSLY, LABERGE IS AVOIDING THE ISSUE FOR THE MOMENT, AS HE COULD EASILY HAVE THE TRADITIONAL QUEBEC CAUCUS DISCUSS AND DECIDE THE WORDING OF A POLICY PAPER PRIOR TO OR DURING THE CONVENTION. THE OBVIOUS DANGER IN THIS MANEUVERING OVER A POLICY PAPER ON QUEBEC IS THE POLARIZATION OF THE ISSUE AMONGST THE DELEGATES WHO, FOR THE MOST PART, WILL BE POLITICALLY INEXPERIENCED RANK-AND-FILE WORKERS. SUCH AN EMOTIONALLY CHARGED ISSUE, IF ALLOWED OPEN FOR DEBATE DURING A PLENARY SESSION OF THE CONVENTION COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL MAKING THE SITUATION RIPE FOR POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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MISCHIEF MAKING. END COMMENT.

5. THE SECOND INTERNAL CONFLICT OVER THE DIRECTORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAY BE MINOR. JOE MORRIS, THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE CLC, HAS BEEN HIS OWN DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ALLOWING JOHN HARKER, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, TO HANDLE MOST OF THE MECHANICS. SHIRLEY CARR, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CLC, CERTAIN TO BE RE-ELECTED, REPORTEDLY HAS AN UNDERSTANDING WITH DENNIS MCDERMOTT, SHOE-IN CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY, ALLOWING HER TO BE IN COMPLETE CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IF THIS IS TRUE SHE WILL CERTAINLY BE THE NEXT WORKER DELEGATE TO THE ILO IF NOT THIS YEAR, THEN IN SUCCEEDING YEARS. (MORRIS MAY BE CANADA'S WORKER DELEGATE AT THE 1978 ILO CONFERENCE AFTER HE STEPS DOWN FROM HIS PRESENT POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY POSITION.)

6. COMMENT. HARKER AND MORRIS HAVE WORKED WELL TOGETHER, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MORRIS COULD INFLUENCE CARR TO FOREGO HER INTEREST IN BEING COMPLETELY IN CHARGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. IT IS

ALSO UNLIKELY THAT MCDERMOTT WOULD NOT GIVE CARR WHAT SHE WANTS, AS SHE HAS THE DELEGATE STRENGTH TO UPSET HIS ELECTION IF SHE SO CHOSE. HARKER HIMSELF THINKS THAT HE WILL SOON BE LOOKING FOR A JOB ALONG WITH THE ONE MILLION CANADIAN UNEMPLOYED. PLACKE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014